Memory of the World Asia Pacific Regional Register Nomination Form

1 Title of Documentary Heritage Item or Collection (max 10 words)

The Royal Correspondence of Baginda Omar (*Surat Persendirian Baginda Omar*)

2 Summary (max 200 words)

Give a brief description of the documentary heritage being nominated, and the reasons for proposing it. Include the type of document heritage such as manuscripts, papers, film etc. Highlight the nature, uniqueness and significance of the nominated documentary heritage.

The core of this collection contains the surviving correspondence of Terengganu's ruler, Tengku Omar Ibni Sultan Ahmad Shah I, Sultan Terengganu Darul Iman IX, (1839 – 1876) also known as Baginda Omar.

There are **fifty-five original letters and one (1) official proclamation written in *Jawi*** in the collection, with the core documents comprising both official and private correspondence. Documenting five (5) turbulent decades (1844 – 1893) in Terengganu's history, the letters range from diplomatic missives (from Siam, Kelantan, Pahang, Johor, Riau, Dutch and British) and family memoranda to business instructions and political intelligences. This collection offers a vivid glimpse into this significant chapter of Terengganu's and Malaysia's history while providing an illuminating look at the political intrigues of the various Malay courts during the advent of Western influence and dominance in the region.

From a philological perspective, the importance of this collection cannot be overstated. The wealth of calligraphic styles, linguistic features, and seal imprints found in such concentration enables us to fill major gaps in our knowledge of 19th-century Malay epistolography and codicology. Besides, they enable us to understand Terengganu's history during Baginda Omar's reign as well as amplifying the history of the growth of Malay scribal activity in the region.

3 Nominator/s Contact details

3.1 Name of nominator/s (person/s or organisation/s)

Department of National Heritage

3.2 Relationship to the nominated documentary heritage

The Department of National Heritage is the focal point and the the Chaiperson for MOW National Committee since 2007.

3.3 Contact person/s

Mr Mohamad Muda Bin Bahadin

3.4 Contact details

Name	**Address**
Department of National Heritage	Blok A & B, Bangunan Sultan Abdul Samad, Jalan Raja, 50050 Kuala Lumpur.
Telephone +603-26127200	**Email** muda@heritage.gov.my / info@heritage.gov.my

Year 2024	Surat Persendirian Baginda Omar / Baginda Omar Private Papers	Page no.

4 Declaration of Authority

I certify that I/we have the authority to nominate the documentary heritage described in this document to the Asia Pacific Regional Memory of the World Register. All nominators must sign here. (A signed support letter from the nominators' National Commissions is required when the nomination is from two or more Member States. See Section J in the Process document for more details)

Name	**Position**
Mr Mohamad Muda Bin Bahadin	Deputy Director General
Address Department of National Heritage Blok A & B, Bangunan Sultan Abdul Samad, Jalan Raja, 50050 Kuala Lumpur.	**Email** muda@heritage.gov.my / info@heritage.gov.my

Signature/s of nominator/s.....

Year 2024	The Royal Correspondence of Baginda Omar (*Surat Persendirian Baginda Omar*)	Page no.

5 Legal Information

5.1 Owner/s of the documentary heritage (name and contact details, if different from the nominator/s)

Name National Archives of Malaysia	**Address** National Archives of Malaysia Jalan Tuanku Abdul Halim 50568 Kuala Lumpur Malaysia
Telephone +603-62090600	**Email** jaafar@arkib.gov.my

5.2 Custodian/s of the documentary heritage (name and contact details if different from the owner/s)

Name National Archives of Malaysia	**Address** National Archives of Malaysia Jalan Tuanku Abdul Halim 50568 Kuala Lumpur Malaysia
Telephone +603-62090600	**Email** jaafar@arkib.gov.my

Please note: Written permission for nomination of this item from the Owners and/or Custodian/s if different from the nominator **must be attached** to this Nomination Form.

5.3 Legal status

This collection of letters is protected under:

1. National Heritage Act 2005 (Act 645) (Heritage Gazettement No.: P.U.(B) 48, National Heritage Gazettement No.: P.U.(A) 328)
2. National Archives Act 2003 (Act 629) (Registration no.:10.10.2003-PU (A) 300/2003)

5.4 Accessibility

This collection can only be accessed by registered researchers through:

1. Physical access at research room. Photocopies of Surat Persendirian Baginda Omar / Baginda Omar Private Papers are available for researchers. Original copies are not allowed for reference; and
2. Digital access at research room through Computerised Archival System and Services (COMPASS).

5.5 Copyright status

The copyright status of the nominated archives remains to National Archives of Malaysia.

6 Details of the Nominated Documentary Heritage

6.1 Exact title of the documentary heritage

Give the exact title of the nominated documentary heritage and the exact name of the nominating; institution/s.

Exact Title:

Surat Persendirian Baginda Omar / Baginda Omar Private Papers

Exact Nominator:

National Archives of Malaysia

6.2 Type of documentary heritage

Describe the type/s of documentary heritage. Examples include papers, photos, digital, maps, manuscripts, film etc.

Manuscripts (fifty-five original letters and one (1) official proclamation written in Malay Jawi script).

6.3 Catalogue or registration details

This collection of letters consists of letters from 1839 to 1893. A list of the materials of The Royal Correspondence of Baginda Omar (*Surat Persendirian Baginda Omar*) is arranged in chronological order according to their stated or approximate dates (Registration no.: SP.6).

No.	Sender & Recipient Subject Matter	Date
1.	Baginda Omar to 'Paduka Kanda' and Encik Buruk. Directives over the gathering of boat-building materials and the collection of a fine.	1839-1860
2.	Sultan Muhammad II of Kelantan to Baginda Omar. Oath of loyalty to Baginda Omar against Tengku Wok Hitam.	12 June 1844
3.	Sultan Muhammad II of Kelantan to Baginda Omar. Response to news of Sultan Mahmud Muzaffar Shah of Lingga's unexpected arrival in Terengganu.	31 July 1848
4.	Baginda Omar to Tengku Besar Tengku Idris (Menteri Besar of Terengganu). A S*urat Cap* authorising the Tengku Besar to secure the compliance of all Terengganu nobleman against Tengku Wook Hitam.	7 September 1848
5	Baginda Omar to Encik Bujal Of Singapore. Requesting Encik Bujal's assistance to recover funds from Chinese merchants and references dealings with the court	28 August 1849

No.	Sender & Recipient Subject Matter	Date
	in Singapore.	
6.	Baginda Omar to Baba Tan Kim Cheng of Singapore. Requesting Baba Tan Kim Cheng's help to recover funds from a Chinese merchant in Singapore, while expressing his disappointment over the situation.	28 August 1849
7.	Governor Butterworth of the Straits Settlements to Baginda Omar. Advice regarding a court case brought by Baginda Omar against some individuals. Suggests that Baginda Omar's emissaries, Abdul Rauf and Abdul Salam, should discuss the matter with the defence attorney, Mr. Logan.	21 September 1849
8.	Sultan Mahmud Muzaffar Shah of Lingga to Tengku Besar Tengku Idris, Menteri Besar of Terengganu. The marriage of Sultan Mahmud Muzaffar Shah's daughter, Tengku Embong Fatimah, to Raja Muhammad Yusuf ibni Yang di-Pertuan Muda Engku Kelana Raja Ali, later Yang di-Pertuan Muda of Riau X (1858-1899).	9 August 1851
9.	Sultan Muhammad II of Kelantan to Baginda Omar. News of a minor accident experienced at sea by Terengganu's *Bunga Mas* delegation on their return from Bangkok.	18 August 1851
10.	Governor Butterworth of the Straits Settlements to Baginda Omar. Detailed memorandum concerning the Chinese 'Pirate' incident.	6 September 1851
11.	Baginda Omar to Syeikh Ahmad Yazid. Invitation for Syeikh Yazid to visit Terengganu.	30 March 1852
12.	Sultan Mahmud Muzaffar Shah of Lingga to Baginda Omar. Detailed memorandum on political and family matters.	13 April 1852

No.	Sender & Recipient Subject Matter	Date
	Refers to the passing of Tengku Besar Tengku Idris, delay in sending the cannon *Seri Portugis* to Lingga, discussions on the Chinese 'Pirate' case and Terengganu's position on the matter, questions over the loyalties of Bendahara Tun Ali and Temenggong Daing Ibrahim, and concerns over the welfare of Tengku Abdul Jalil of Singapore's family.	
13.	Temenggong Daing Ibrahim of Johor to Baginda Omar. Condolences over the passing of Tengku Besar Tengku Idris.	2 May 1852
14.	Governor Blundell of the Straits Settlement to Baginda Omar. Details of the Chinese 'Pirate' case and the fines payable.	15 May 1852
15.	Sultan Mahmud Muzaffar Shah of Lingga to Baginda Omar. Family matters relating to a Tuan Syeikh Abdul Rahman bin Syeikh Abdul Samad.	12 June 1852
16.	Sultan Mahmud Muzaffar Shah of Lingga to Baginda Omar. Discussing details of the Chinese 'Pirate' case, in particular the status of Terengganu's independence in the matter, introducing Cursetjee Fromurzee as his business agent, and family travel arrangements.	27 July 1852
17.	Sultan Mahmud of Patani to Baginda Omar. Submitting an intelligence report from Bangkok via Singgora concerning British complaints lodged with the Siamese over the Chinese 'Pirate' case, and progress of Terengganu's *Bunga Mas* delegation to Bangkok.	14 October 1852
18.	Resident Councillor Church of Singapore to Baginda Omar. A note thanking Baginda Omar for the gift two spears, and the despatch of return gifts through Haji Sulaiman, who had been sent by Baginda Omar to meet with Governor Blundell.	25 October 1852
19.	Baginda Omar to Sultan Mahmud of Patani.	22 July 1853

No.	Sender & Recipient Subject Matter	Date
	Regarding Sultan Mahmud Muzaffar Shah of Lingga's and his mother's arrival in Terengganu.	
20.	Sultan Mahmud Muzaffar Shah of Lingga to Baginda Omar. Concerns over the appointment of Sultan Ali as ruler of Singapore and the surrender of Johor to Temenggong Daing Ibrahim, worries that Terengganu may suffer the same fate.	7 April 1855
21.	Resident Councillor Church of Singapore to Baginda Omar. Securing Baginda Omar's help to combat piracy, and seeking further details on the detention of some suspected pirates in Terengganu.	4 May 1855
22.	Sultan Mahmud Muzaffar Shah of Lingga To Baginda Omar. Delay in returning some spears to Baginda Omar.	4 July 1855
23.	Wan Ahmad of Pahang to Syed Darus of Kuantan. Ordering the return of fugitive slave-boys who had fled to Kemaman, copies of a few *Surat Cap*.	28 April 1856
24.	Resident Councillor Church of Singapore to Baginda Omar. Details on the impending departure of Sultan Mahmud Muzaffar Shah of Lingga to Terengganu.	2 September 1856
25.	To Baginda Omar: (a) Bendahara Tun Ali of Pahang to Sultan Mahmud Muzaffar Syah of Lingga. (b) Temenggong Daing Ibrahim of Johor to Sultan Mahmud Muzaffar Shah of Lingga. Copies of letters (a) and (b) made for Baginda Omar, both stating pledges of loyalty to Sultan Mahmud Muzaffar Shah in the aftermath of the handing over of Johor by Sultan Ali of Singapore to Temenggong Daing Ibrahim.	16 September 1856 (a) 6 August 1856 (b) 15 July 1856
26.	Engku Selangor to Baginda Omar.	19 October 1856

No.	Sender & Recipient Subject Matter	Date
	Reporting the safe return of Tengku Teh, the death of Engku Besar Raja Siti, Engku Selangor's plans to make the Haj, and her inability to take up Baginda Omar's offer for her to live in Terengganu.	
27.	Sultan Mahmud Muzaffar Shah of Lingga to Yang di-Pertuan Muda Tengku Mahmud of Terengganu. Allaying fears over the well-being and return of Tengku Muda Tengku Ahmad to Terengganu.	23 October 1856
28.	Sultan Mahmud Muzaffar Shah of Lingga to Baginda Omar. Allaying fears over the well-being and return of Tengku Muda Tengku Ahmad to Terengganu.	23 October 1856
29.	Yang di-Pertuan Muda Tengku Mahmud of Terengganu to Baginda Omar. Pledge of loyalty to Baginda Omar.	20 February 1857
30.	Baginda Omar to Sultan Muhammad II of Kelantan. Repatriating the remains and belongings of the late Baba Kam Siang to his family in Singapore, together with a substantial amount of cargo owned by *Orang Putih* merchants there.	27 February 1857
31.	Resident Councillor Mackenzie of Singapore To Baginda Omar. Expressions and exchanges of thanks and goodwill.	15 October 1857
32.	Tengku Ja'afar of Singapore to Wan Ahmad of Pahang. Comment on Wan Ahmad's present circumstances and their joint plans to thwart the British, advice for Wan Ahmad to lie low, and some business matters.	24 March 1858
33.	Resident Councillor Mackenzie of Singapore to Tun Mutahir	2 April 1858

No.	Sender & Recipient Subject Matter	Date
	of Pahang. Requesting Tun Mutahir to stay in Kemaman until the Governor's arrival, so that the Tun Mutahir may lay his complaints directly before the Governor.	
34.	Resident Councillor Mackenzie of Singapore to Baginda Omar. Views on Baginda Omar's alleged support for Wan Ahmad, Baginda Omar's standing as an independent and sovereign ruler, notice of the Governor's intention to visit Terengganu, and that Temenggong Daing Ibrahim is forbidden to interfere with the affairs of the other Malay states without prior British approval.	19 April 1858
35.	Sultan Ali Iskandar Shah of Muar-Kesang to Baginda Omar. Replying to Baginda Omar's inquiries about Wan Ahmad, mentioning the Governor's departure to Terengganu, and the latter had been briefed on Pahang's laws and customs.	15 May 1858
36.	Bendahara Tun Ali of Pahang to Yamtuan Muda Tengku Mahmud of Terengganu. Confirming his intention to make a courtesy call on Sultan Mahmud Muzaffar Shah of Lingga once the harbor is re-opened.	8 September 1858
37.	Bendahara Tun Ali of Pahang To Baginda Omar. Confirming his intention to make a courtesy call on Sultan Mahmud Muzaffar Shah of Lingga once the harbor is re-opened.	8 September 1858
38.	Tun Mutahir of Pahang to Wan Ahmad of Pahang. A personal plea from Tun Mutahir to Wan Ahmad, seeking an end their hostilities, discussions between their noblemen to affect a truce, worries over the welfare of their womenfolk, and a request for provisions.	28 October 1858
39.	Temenggong Daing Ibrahim of Johor to Baginda Omar.	2 October 1859

No.	Sender & Recipient Subject Matter	Date
	Concerning the despatch of correspondence between Baginda Omar and the Dutch Resident in Riau.	
40.	Sultan Mahmud Muzaffar Shah of Lingga to Baginda Omar. An important document outlining Sultan Mahmud Muzaffar Shah of Lingga's judicial plans and government policies regarding the administration of Pahang, requests for a supply of rice to prevent a shortfall due to coming monsoon, invites Pahangites to return to their homes, and voices concerns over false pass documents from Terengganu.	4 October 1859
41.	Sultan Mahmud Muzaffar Shah of Lingga to Baginda Omar. Discussion over some property issues, and reference to an ailment being suffered by Baginda Omar.	27 October 1859
42.	Tun Mutahir of Pahang to Baginda Omar. Report the revolt of Tok Raja Panglima Perang Kiri Wan Embong bin Maharaja Perba Jelai.	27 October 1859
43.	Tun Mutahir of Pahang to Tengku Endut. Details of the revolt instigated by Tok Raja Panglima Perang Kiri Wan Embong Bin Maharaja Perba Jelai, requests for assistance to purchase a boat.	21 January 1860
44.	Sultan Mahmud Muzaffar Shah of Lingga To Baginda Omar. Discussions over negotiations being planned between Baginda Omar, some Malay noblemen and other officials, preparations to welcome their arrival on the steamer *Soembing* that is being sent from Batavia.	21 February 1860
45.	Temenggong Daing Ibrahim of Johor to Baginda Omar. An update on a dispute between two Chinese merchants in Terengganu, and how Terengganu's jurisdiction over the case being viewed by lawyers in Singapore.	28 March 1860
46.	Tun Mutahir of Pahang to Yamtuan Muda Tengku Ahmad of	29 March 1860

No.	Sender & Recipient Subject Matter	Date
	Terengganu. Concerns over the impending arrival of the *Soembing* to collect Sultan Mahmud Muzaffar Shah of Lingga, and worries over the troubles it might bring.	
47.	Tun Mutahir of Pahang to Yamtuan Muda Tengku Ahmad of Terengganu. Problems with Sultan Mahmud Muzaffar Shah of Lingga overstaying his welcomes in Pahang, and Tun Mutahir's inability to force the issues on the Sultan.	19 April 1860
48.	Tun Mutahir of Pahang to Yamtuan Muda Tengku Ahmad of Terengganu. Problems encountered during Sultan Mahmud Muzaffar Shah of Lingga's departure from Pahang.	8 May 1860
49.	Tun Mutahir of Pahang to Tok Raja Panglima Perang Kiri Wan Embong of Jelai. A sharp command ordering Wan Embong to come before an audience with Baginda Omar, and to cease fermenting trouble.	2 July 1860
50.	Tun Mutahir of Pahang to Yamtuan Muda Tengku Ahmad of Terengganu. Reporting the death of Tok Raja Panglima Perang Kiri Wan Embong of Jelai.	12 August 1860
51.	Tun Mutahir of Pahang to Baginda Omar. Confirming the receipt of opium from Baginda Omar, and the despatch of camphor requested by Baginda Omar.	1860/1861
52.	Raja Muda Kelantan to Engku Syed Seri Perdana of Terengganu. Intention to acquire a *perahu* Terengganu.	17 March 1864
53.	Sultan Zainal Abidin III to Engku Besar Paduka Raja of	4 November 1885

No.	Sender & Recipient Subject Matter	Date
	Terengganu. Discussions regarding some property matters.	
54.	Sultan Zainal Abidin III to Engku Besar Paduka Raja of Terengganu. Private views over some divorce matters.	26 July 1886
55.	Sultan Zainal Abidin III to Engku Besar Paduka Raja of Terengganu. Request for the Engku Besar to guide Tengku Putera while he acts as Regent in the Sultan's absence.	25 October 1893
56.	Surat-surat pengistiharaan oleh Sultan Omar Ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Ahmad. The royal proclamation appointing Tengku Ahmad ibni Tengku Mahmud as Yang di-Pertuan Muda of Terengganu.	22 July 1847

6.4 Images of the documentary heritage.

The visual documentation includes the following:

1. Images of original letters of Surat Persendirian Baginda Omar / Baginda Omar Private Papers written in Malay Jawi script;
2. Preservation and conservation process; and
3. Publication of books.

Please refer to **Attachment 1** for the document images.

6.5 History/Origin/Background/Provenance

The collection of letters was collected by Sheikh Ulama Tok Ku Tuan Besar Paduka Indera Engku Syed Seri Perdana Engku Muhammad who was also a distinguished diplomat and administrator to Sultan Baginda Omar, Sultan of Terengganu IX (1839-1876). This collection was then inherited by his descendants who were eventually looked after by his

grandson Engku Pengiran Anum Engku Syed Abdul Kadir (1888-1963).

After Malaya gained its independence in 1957, the National Archives of Malaysia was tasked with collecting of national importance, among which is a set of facsimile documents in the possession of Engku Pengiran Anum, namely the Letter of King Omar. It was obtained in 1960 after three (3) years of Malaya obtaining independence. These documents then were officially accepted by the National Archives of Malaysia in 1963.

The original copies were then returned to the family of Engku Pengiran Anum who had previously loaned it to Dato' Muhammad Salleh Hj Awang (1917-1992), Terengganu State Historian.

Later, the original letters were also returned to the family of Pengiran Engku Anum who then decided to make a permanent donation through his son Engku Wook and Engku Mohsein who was the Deputy Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports Malaysia (1964-1969) to the National Archives of Malaysia around early 1990s. Until now, National Archives Malaysia still retains the right of ownership, custody and ownership.

The original copies of the Malay – Jawi letters now gathered under the major heading The Royal Correspondence of Baginda Omar (*Surat Persendirian Baginda Omar*) were surrendered to be deposited to the National Archives Malaysia in the 1990 by the 'waris' or heir of the late Engku Pengiran Anum Engku Syed Abdul Kadir.

6.6 Bibliography

Provide a list of at least 3 published sources that have been produced using the nominated documentary heritage.

1. Ché-Ross Raimy (2015). The royal letters of Baginda Omar: Sultan Terengganu Darul Iman IX Marhum Baginda (1806-1876) Vol I. Yayasan DiRaja Sultan Mizan.

2. Ché-Ross Raimy. (2017). The royal letters of Baginda Omar: Sultan Terengganu Darul Iman IX Marhum Baginda (1806-1876) Vol 2. Yayasan DiRaja Sultan Mizan.

3. Jasni, Siti. (2019). The Relationship Of Terengganu With The Malay States Under Baginda Omar's Rule. 760-767. 10.15405/epsbs.2019.09.82.

4. Sheppard, Mubin. "Baginda Omar: The Conqueror/Dato Haji Mubin Sheppard," Malaya in History/Malaysia in History dan Malaysia Dari Segi Sejarah (1968): 34-37.

6. Sheppard, Mubin. "A Short History Of Terengganu." Journal of the Malayan In History of Trengganu." Journal of the Malayan branch of the Royal Asiatic Society (JMBRAS) 22.3 (149 (1949):1-74.

7. Jasni, Siti Aisyah, Nur Liyana Mohd Sukri, and Azmi Arifin. "The Historiography of Terengganu in 19th Century Based On Baginda Omar Private Letters. "Humanities and Civilization (ICSHAC 2018) (2018):103.

8. Abd Wahab, N., & Mohd Noor, A. (2013). Kegiatan Perusahaan Dalam Kalangan Masyarakat Melayu Di Terengganu 1900-1941,28,137-162.

9. Hussin, I.R. (2016). The politics of Islamic Law : Local Elities, Colonial Authority, and the making of the Muslim state. The University of Chicago Press.

10. Ghazali, Abdullah Zakaria. Surat-Surat Baginda Omar. (Research Paper)

6.7 Names, qualifications and contact details of experts

Provide the details of two to three independent people with expert knowledge about the values and provenance of the documentary heritage who may be contacted by MOWCAP for further information on your nomination. Note that the Register Sub Committee (RSC) may also contact other experts.

The names and contact details of your referees will not be publicly disclosed by MOWCAP nor disclosed without their permission to any third party.

Name:	**Qualifications:**	**Address:**
Professor Emeritus Datuk [redacted]	Ph.D (History), UM	University of Malaya [redacted]
Name: [redacted]	**Qualifications:** Writer	**Address:** Email: [redacted]
Name: [redacted]	**Qualifications**	**Address:** Yayasan Diraja Sultan Mizan [redacted]

I certify that the above named experts have given their written permission for their names and contact details to be used in connection with this nomination to the Memory of the World Asia Pacific Regional Register.

Signature , Full name: **Mr Mohamad Muda Bin Bahadin**

Date 15/4/2024.

7 Authenticity and Integrity

7.1 Authenticity and Integrity

Is the documentary heritage what it appears to be? For example, has its identity and provenance been reliably established; are supplementary parts being kept elsewhere and not included in the nomination; has it been altered or damaged; are sections or pages missing; is part of the documentary heritage lost?

The nominated documentary heritage is authentic and reliable. It is well preserved by the National Archives of Malaysia.

8 Primary criteria: Regional Significance

More details on what is required for each criterion are provided in the MOWCAP Register Guidelines document available on the MOWCAP website

You only need to provide information for criteria that are relevant to your nomination

8.1 Historical Significance

What does the documentary heritage tell us in relation to the history of the Asia Pacific region as a whole, or to a sub-region such as Central, South, Southeast, East Asia or Melanesia, Micronesia, Polynesia, Australasia?

a) Administration Significance

Based on the evidence contained in Baginda Omar's letters, researchers concluded that he was the first Terengganu ruler to make the Sultanate an institution played a direct role in the state administration. Three important reforms were implemented in Terengganu, centralized system of government, introduced more systematic governance structures between the central and regional levels, the development of civic infrastructure, and the maintenance of urban development. The restructuring of the administrative structure in the Terengganu government was initially practiced by Baginda Omar and the administrative order existed until 1880. Due to his strong administration, he stopped the practice of sending gold flower to Siam, which had been practiced by the previous government. All the actions carried out by His Majesty through evidence from Baginda Omar's letters clearly show that the elements of modern administration had already been established in the Malay world, especially Terengganu State before the entry of colonial power in Malaya (Clifford 1992).

b) Diplomatic Significance

From The Royal Correspondence of Baginda Omar (*Surat Persendirian Baginda Omar*) it shows that Baginda Omar as one of the most illustrious among the Terengganu rulers. He was adept at governing the state under a centralized administration and maintaining diplomatic relations with countries in the Malay Archipelago such as Siam, Kelantan, Pahang, Johor, Riau, the British in Singapore and the far-away power, Great Britain. Baginda Omar ascended the throne at the dawn of a new era for Terengganu – or for that matter, the whole of the Malay Peninsula – characterized by the expansion of Western powers in the region. Such a situation demanded that local rulers, such as Baginda Omar, be highly sensitive to geopolitical developments and do the needful, especially on the diplomatic front. One of Baginda Omar's fine traits was his diplomatic skills and strategic maneuvers. As a result, Terengganu remained an independent state and did not become a victim of foreign interference, whether by the British, Siam, or any local power, which reflected his great leadership amid various challenges and tribulations.

c) Economic Significance

The Royal Correspondence of Baginda Omar (*Surat Persendirian Baginda Omar*) also contain business contacts between the East Coast Malay states and Dutch dependencies throughout the Malay Archipelago, which gradually decreased as Riau-Lingga's economic significance was taken over by the growth of Singapore in the 1850s. Baginda Omar was known to have sent his emissaries regularly to the Selat (Singapore) on official business and maintained commercial links with European merchants there.

Besides, The Royal Correspondence of Baginda Omar (*Surat Persendirian Baginda Omar*) is also an important evidence related to the economic development one of the Malay state referring to the state of Terengganu in the 19th century and is seen as unique due to the importance of other economies such as corporate economics. An enterprise that refers to a form of work that entirely uses hands was one of the specialties of the Malay community in Terengganu at that time. As a result, various business activities successfully developed such as textile, copper and boat business activities. This situation shows that the Terengganu government at that time, referring to Sultan Baginda Omar, realized the importance of complementing the economy by also focusing on enterprises in addition to existing economic dependencies such as trade, agriculture and fishing.

Therefore, the Royal Correspondence of Baginda Omar (*Surat Persendirian Baginda Omar*) is an important evidence that marks the economic development in the Malay world that took place in the 19th century which was more progressive in transforming agricultural economic activities to a commercial or enterprise orientation particularly during the colonial era in states in Malaya, especially in Terengganu.

8.2 Form and Style Significance

Is the document an outstanding example of its type?

This criterion refers to the physical nature of the documentary heritage. Is the documentary heritage a particularly fine exemplar of its type; does it have outstanding qualities of beauty and craftsmanship; is it a new or unusual type of carrier or is it an example of a type of document that is now obsolete or superseded?

The wealth of calligraphic styles, linguistic features, and seal imprints found in the Royal Correspondence of Baginda Omar (*Surat Persendirian Baginda Omar*) which such concentration enables us to fill major gaps in our knowledge of 19th-century Malay epistolography and codicology. They enable us to chart the growth of Malay scribal activity in the region while amplifying our understanding of Terengganu's history during Baginda Omar's reign.

Academic studies on the latter subject are still sparse compared to existing work done on contemporary figures and issues in Perak, Johor and Kelantan. Some may argue that the lacuna exists due to the paucity of native records in Malaysia, and the diffusion of existing papers in repositories throughout the world. The existence of these letters therefore allows us to partly redress the situation, while encouraging us to re-evaluate the roles currently assigned to the key players linked to this crucial period of Terengganu history.

Given its significance, the fact that this collection has remained secluded for so long raises several questions. Viewed negatively, it reflects the dearth of dedicated local interest in Malay epistolography. Viewed positively, it alerts us to rich resources waiting to be mined. In this respect, a renewed appreciation of Malay letters as a source of historical and sociological information on the Malay Archipelago has emerged in recent times.

8.3 Social Community or Spiritual Significance

Is the documentary heritage attached to a specific existing community and demonstrably significant? Information should be provided on what the nominated item represents and how this attachment is expressed. If there are any, ensure to mention any relation to Gender, Indigenous and other minority or marginalised groups.

The Royal Correspondence of Baginda Omar (*Surat Persendirian Baginda Omar*) provide one of the most important pieces of evidence in terms of the important role of a king or Malay Sultanate, which is indeed very influential and transformed social communities. Many scholars have assumed that business activities have become a vehicle for the socio-economic progress of Malay communities around the 18th century-until the 19th century. The effect of the skills found among the Malay community in the field of business, apparently led to the existence of core development activities in the export of goods such as silk cloth, songket cloth, thread, copper, boats, wood carving, iron and so on, especially

during the reign of Sultan Baginda Omar.

Besides, The Royal Correspondence of Baginda Omar (*Surat Persendirian Baginda Omar*) portrayed His Majesty's personality for his firm, fair, sensitive, charismatic, and caring attitude towards the welfare of his people. Throughout his reign, he tried to establish a direct relationship with his subordinates by appointing headmen and establishing a reception hall to listen to all complaints of the people. He also often stood out in society by traveling throughout the city and state to personally observe the living conditions of his people. In addition to accompanying the ulama group, he was also interested not only in trade activities but also in making Terengganu a center for the dissemination of important knowledge and religion in the region.

Given that the importance of The Royal Correspondence of Baginda Omar (*Surat Persendirian Baginda Omar*) in the national and international level, it was declared as National Heritage (Gazettment No: P.U. (A) 328) during the 2012 National Heritage Declaration Ceremony. The ceremony was held at the Sultan Abdul Samad Building, Kuala Lumpur on 10 May 2012 (Thursday) by the Honourable YB Dato' Seri Utama Dr. Rais Yatim, Minister of Information, Communications and Culture as the minister empowered under the Section 67 of the National Heritage Act 2005 (Act 645).

9 Regional Significance: Comparative criteria

The item or collection should be compared to similar items or collections, whether on any of the Memory of the World registers or not. The comparison should outline the similarities between the nominated documentary heritage has with others as well as the differences, and the reasons that make the nominated documentary heritage stand out. The comparative analysis should aim to explain the importance of the nominated documentary heritage in its national, regional and even international context (if applicable). Consulting successful inscriptions to both regional and international registers is highly encouraged for this endeavour in order to ascertain and demonstrate uniqueness or intercultural connections.

The purpose of the comparative analysis is to show that the nominator has tried to find any existing duplicates or other similar examples of the item or collection, and to demonstrate that there is room for this item or collection to be included on the MOWCAP Regional Register.

9.1 Uniqueness or Rarity

Provide the results of the comparative analysis. Can the documentary heritage be described as unique (the only one of its kind ever created) or rare (one of a few survivors from a larger number)?

Comparison with of other documentary heritages about International or Regional Organization such as the archives of the League of Nations and European Unions.

a) Rarity

The Royal Correspondence of Baginda Omar (*Surat Persendirian Baginda Omar*) held by the NAM constitute one of the most important accessible primary sources of historical information available on the socio-political and economic development of Terengganu in the 19th and early 20th centuries. In terms of its importance, the letters are equivalent to another important document, the Correspondence of Sultan Abdul Hamid Halim Shah, Kedah (1882 - 1943), which was listed in the Memory of the World Register in 2001. However, The Royal Correspondence of Baginda Omar (*Surat Persendirian Baginda Omar*), which contains 55 royal letters, is an earlier document and therefore has its own advantages. The importance of such documents is very clear, especially given the lack of other indigenous reference sources that can explain the political and socio-economic history of the Malay state from a more balanced indigenous perspective. Through this reference source, Malaysian historians can understand the pattern of governance, political system, and sultanate institution that existed during or before the 19th century. On the other hand, this document can explain the greatness of Malay ruler's governance, which is rarely mentioned in colonial records.

A survey of the paper types used for the letters produced some useful data. Our East-Coast scribes were well-stocked with English stationery and had access to quality European paper. 24 of the letters were written on paper bearing watermarks and countermarks from English mills, 15 letters were on European paper of indistinct origin, identified from the presence of sharply-defined industrially impressed chain-lines, and finally, 11 letters were copied on woven paper, presumably European, five (5) of which can be identified as being of Dutch make. In their choice of color, 20 were written on blue/light-blue paper, two (2) letters were written on burnished paper of a greenish hue, and the remaining 33 were written on white or off-white sheets.

10 Gender

Gender equality is one of two global priorities of UNESCO. If there are any specific aspects of the nomination that relate to gender equality, please describe them in detail, explaining what the nominated documentary heritage tells us about the lives of women and girls in Asia and the Pacific, and any impacts on women and girls or on gender equality in the region.

In term of gender equality, there are two Baginda Omar letters' which shows that women's welfare has been given serious attention:

1) Letter no. 26 dated 19 October 1856 (Engku Selangor to Baginda Omar).

- Reporting the safe return of Tengku Teh, the death of Engku Besar Raja Siti, Engku Selangor's plans to make the Haj, and her inability to take up Baginda Omar's offer for her to live in Terengganu.

This letter highlights on the empathy element of Baginda Omar towards elderly by offering Engku Selangor to live in Terengganu. The high spirit of taking well care of older people has been portrayed and instilled in the society in decades before as well as being practiced by Baginda Omar.

2. <u>The Letter no. 38 dated 28 October 1858 (Tun Mutahir of Pahang to Wan Ahmad of Pahang).</u>

- A personal plea from Tun Mutahir to Wan Ahmad, seeking an end their hostilities, discussions between their noblemen to affect a truce, worries over the welfare of their womenfolk, and a request for provisions.

This letter highlights on the concerned of Tun Mutahir to give due respect on women's safety despite hostilities with Wan Ahmad. The impact of dispute has a very great impact on women physically and emotionally. Therefore, welfare of women should be given attention and always need to be protected in any circumstances.

Therefore, these two letters mirrored the element of survival of women as a noble effort in line with global issues highlighted by United Nations particularly related to ageing people as well as peace and security.

11 Statement of Significance

Provide a summary of the points made under the primary and comparative criteria, and the test of authenticity and integrity. Why is the documentary heritage important to the world and what has its impact been beyond the boundaries of a single Asia Pacific state?

The summary should be about 300-600 words

The national recognition accorded to this collection of royal letters befits its significance as one of the most important nineteenth-century Malay primary sources of historical information. They are also rare examples of original Malay-Jawi royal correspondences that have been preserved intact and made available for public research and reference in Malaysia.

The Royal Correspondence of Baginda Omar (*Surat Persendirian Baginda Omar*)show important remarkable relationships between the Malay states and foreign powers such as the British, Siam, Riau and Dutch in in 19th century.

With reference to the collections of The Royal Correspondence of Baginda Omar (*Surat Persendirian Baginda Omar*), it was found that the development of Terengganu's relationship with the Malay states in the 19th century, through the leadership and wisdom of Baginda Omar, not only succeeded in strengthening his relationships with the Malay States (Kelantan, Pahang and Johor), but also acted as a protector for the other Malay states from Siam and British intervention. Any action taken by Baginda Omar was done prudently and diligently to maintain good terms with the foreign powers.

The emphasis on the use of The Royal Correspondence of Baginda Omar (*Surat Persendirian Baginda Omar*) reflects real situations that happened in Terengganu during the 19th century. In the collection of The Royal Correspondence of Baginda Omar (*Surat Persendirian Baginda Omar*), those letters evidently show pieces of information regarding the relationships between Baginda Omar and other Malay rulers such as Pahang and Lingga. They also provide information regarding Baginda Omar's ways of balancing the relationship with external powers such as the British and Siam.

Each letter, either from Baginda Omar or others, every language and praise written, was carefully chosen to respect both parties. Although there were chaotic moments during the era when all Malay states experienced a period of decline due to conflicts arising among the Malay rulers, Terengganu seemed to be in a stable condition as it was able to forge ties with other states under Baginda Omar's administration from 1839 until 1876.

Besides, The Royal Correspondence of Baginda Omar (*Surat Persendirian Baginda Omar*) is an important evidence that marks the economic development in the Malay world that took

place in the 19th century which was more progressive in transforming agricultural economic activities to a commercial or enterprise orientation particularly during the colonial era in states in Malaya, especially in Terengganu.

12 Risk Assessment

12.1 Condition

Describe the physical condition of the Nominated Archives

The nominated documentary heritage is well preserved, in good condition and readable.

12.2 Threat/Risk

Detail the nature and scope of threats to the nominated documentary heritage. For example, poor storage, climate, control of access.

- **Climatic conditions**

Malaysia is a tropical country located in a tropical region. Thus, we experience monsoon seasons which bring heavy rainfall almost throughout the year. Floods and landslides are adverse effects of the monsoon seasons, which also affect our archive buildings. Roof leaks are one of those problems. To protect the archive buildings and archive materials, great emphasis has been given to the buildings' structure and maintenance. Besides, the regular monitoring activity of the manuscript in term of relative humidity and storage temperature are well managed and implemented to avoid humidity fluctuation, which can cause deterioration and damage to the manuscripts.

13 Preservation and Access Management Plan

Management Plan

Are there management plans to preserve and provide access to the nominated documentary heritage?

YES

If YES, describe or attach a summary of the plan or plans.

SHORT-TERM PLANS

Copies of The Royal Correspondence of Baginda Omar (*Surat Persendirian Baginda Omar*) are available for research purposes. Original copies are not available for reference, as they are being preserved to prevent damage.

NAM is committed to preserving this documentary heritage according to archival standards. The maintenance measures include:

1. **Preservation**

   The original records are kept in a vault room in the repository with the following preservation features:

   - Temperature: 18 - 22 ºC is maintained.
   - Humidity: RH 45-55 % is maintained.
   - Sunlight: No sunlight is allowed.
   - Light with ultraviolet filter.
   - Temperature and humidity control equipment: Thermo-hygrograph and dehumidifier.
   - Air filtration and air handling system (bio-zone).
   - Annual fumigation.
   - 24-hour air conditioning.

   Disaster prevention and restoration plans:

   - Stored in a vault room with fire-resistant features.
   - Installation of smoke detectors, fire alarms, fire extinguishers, break glass fire alarm systems, portable extinguishers and hose reel systems.

2. Conservation

   (a) Traditional method

   Major repair Indian handmade paper with L2 and Brown tissue. A bleaching test is performed to identify acidity level of the material that needs to be preserved. Dry acid removal is necessary due to the brittle state of the material.

   Date of assignment: 15.6.2013.

   (b) Binding

   Hand binding, with full bind. Side stich with green buckram.

   Date of assignment: 16.7.2013.

3. Digitisation

   NAM has digitised this precious documentary heritage to preserve the physical documents and enable easy online access.

4. Security

   To maintain the safety of the building and materials, NAM applies the following rules:

   - Only officers and staff of the Repository Services Section are allowed to enter the repository.
   - Officers and other staff with official business are not allowed to enter the repository without prior permission from the Head of the Repository Services Section.

5. Managerial policies to control the physical environment:

   (a) National Archives Act 2003 [*Act 629*]:

   - Part 2 Section 4 (Establishment of The National Archives).
   - Part 5 Section 36 (Processing and Preservation of Public Archives).
   - Part 5 Section 37 (Access to Public Archives).
   - Part 5 Section 38 (Access to Classified Records).
   - Part 5 Section 39 (Prohibition against reproduction and publication of public archives).
   - Section 7 (Function of Head Director) (L dan M).
   - Section 44 (Prohibition Against Export).

   (b) National Heritage Act 2005 (Act 645).

(c) National Archives Regulations (Fee) 2015.

LONG-TERM PLANS

1. Empowerment of Malay Jawi Script

   (i) The Royal Correspondence of Baginda Omar (*Surat Persendirian Baginda Omar*), written in Malay *Jawi* script, which contain important documents covering official and private matters, serve as a testament to the historical and cultural significance of *Jawi* writing.

   (ii) Malay *Jawi* script holds a significant position in the history and culture of the country, and is closely tied to the national identity. The use of Malay *Jawi* script dates back centuries, and it has been an integral part of the Malay language and literature.

2. Publicity and Promotion
   (i) Exhibition
   (ii) Promotion through social media platforms such as Facebook, TikTok, Twitter, etc.

3. Education
   (i) In order to enhance the learning of the *Jawi* script especially in primary schools, it can be incredibly helpful to reference the The Royal Correspondence of Baginda Omar (*Surat Persendirian Baginda Omar*). These papers offer a wealth of knowledge and insight into the *Jawi* script, making them an invaluable resource for both students and educators alike.

Is there a disaster risk management plan in place to support the preservation and safeguarding of the nominated documentary heritage?

YES

If YES, describe or attach a summary of the disaster risk management plan or plans (if not included in the management plan).

Adhere to the MS ISO 9001:2015 - Quality management system - Requirement (Second revision) (ISO9001:2015, IDT), NAM shall plan to address these risk and opportunities and how to integrate and implement the actions into its quality management system process and evaluate the effectiveness of these action. Currently, NAM is in the process of

developing the Disaster Record Action Plan.

14 Consultation with Stakeholders

Provide details of consultation with stakeholders about this nomination. Stakeholders include communities with an involvement in the documentary heritage, owners and custodians of the documentary heritage and scholars who research the documentary heritage

NAM has discussed to nominate this material with Mr. Raimy bin Che'-Ross, Professor Emeritus Datuk Dr. Abdullah Zakaria bin Ghazali and Yayasan DiRaja Sultan Mizan on 13th May 2022 through email.

In addition, relevant stakeholders were also consulted in a series of discussions, especially those held on 25 May 2022 at the Department of National Heritage chaired by the Director of the World Heritage Division, representing the Deputy Director General of the Department of National Heritage. During the discussion, all those present unanimously agreed that The Royal Correspondence of Baginda Omar (*Surat Persendirian Baginda Omar*) to be nominated to the Memory of the World (MOWCAP).

Prior to that, consultation with stakeholders was also conducted online on 12 May 2023. The relevant stakeholders included:

1. National Archives of Malaysia (NAM)
2. Department of National Heritage
3. Yayasan DiRaja Sultan Mizan

Non-Governmental Organisation

1. Raimy Che'-Ross – Researcher

NAM also required expert feedback via email from Dr. Azmi Arifin, a lecturer at the University of Science, Malaysia, regarding the significance of The Royal Correspondence of Baginda Omar (*Surat Persendirian Baginda Omar*).

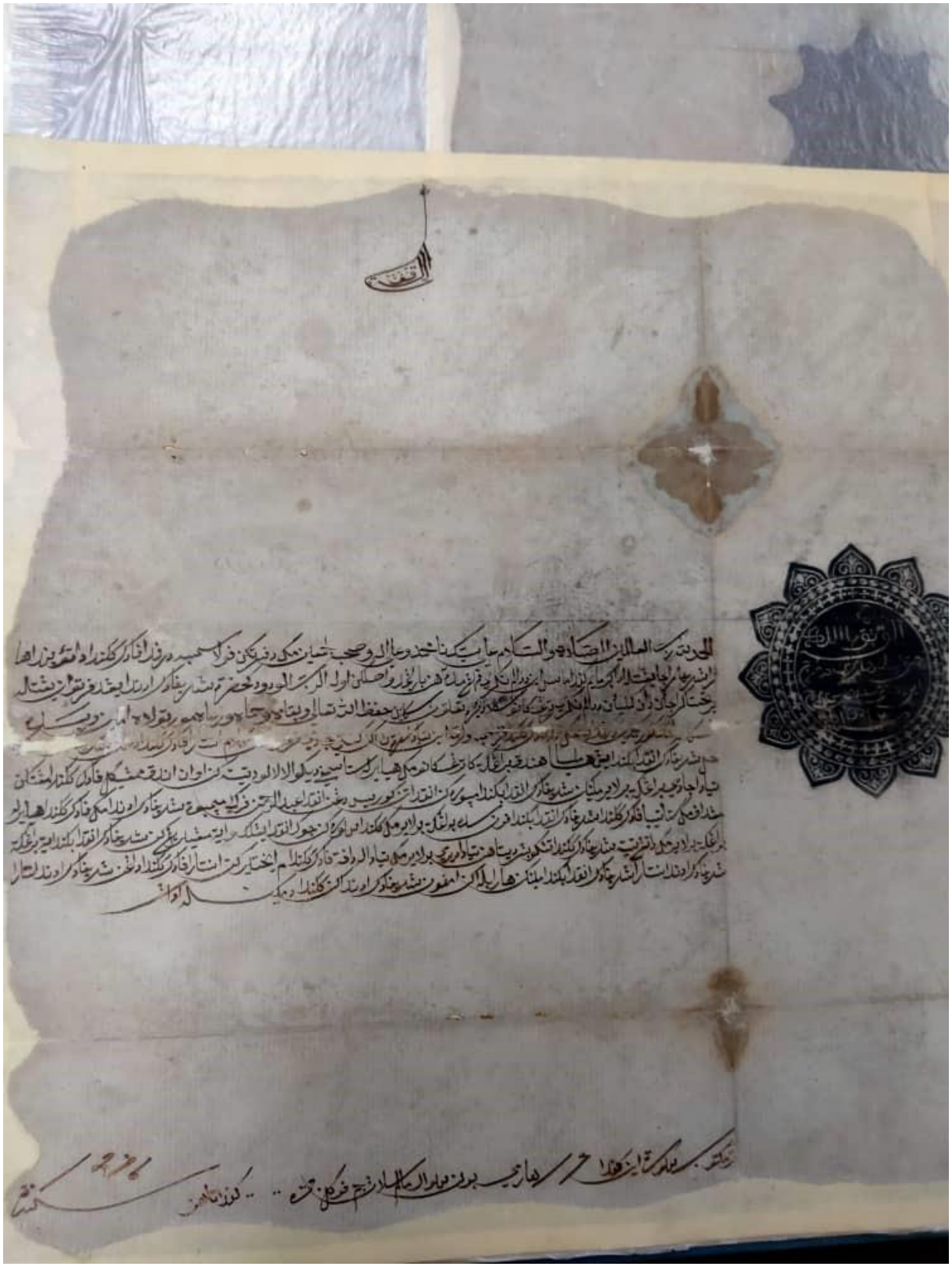
15 Other Information to Support the Nomination

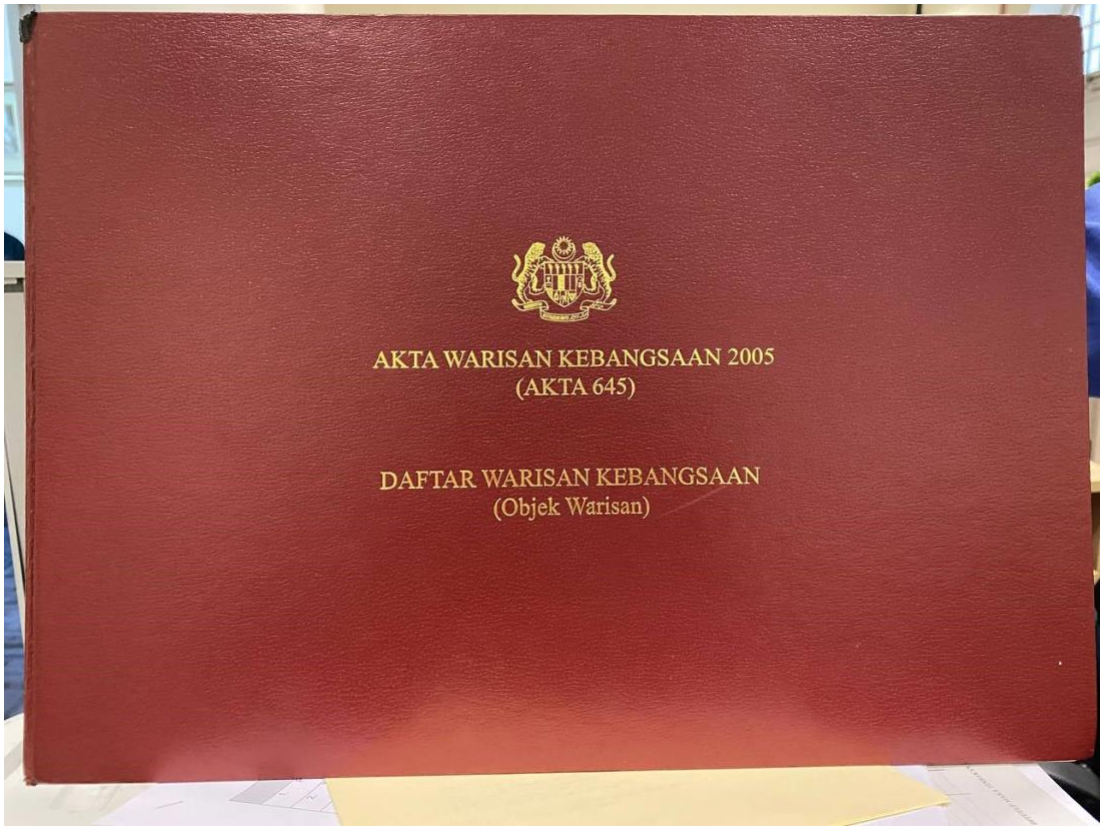
Please provide any other information that supports the inclusion of this documentary heritage collection on the Memory of the World Asia Pacific Regional Register.

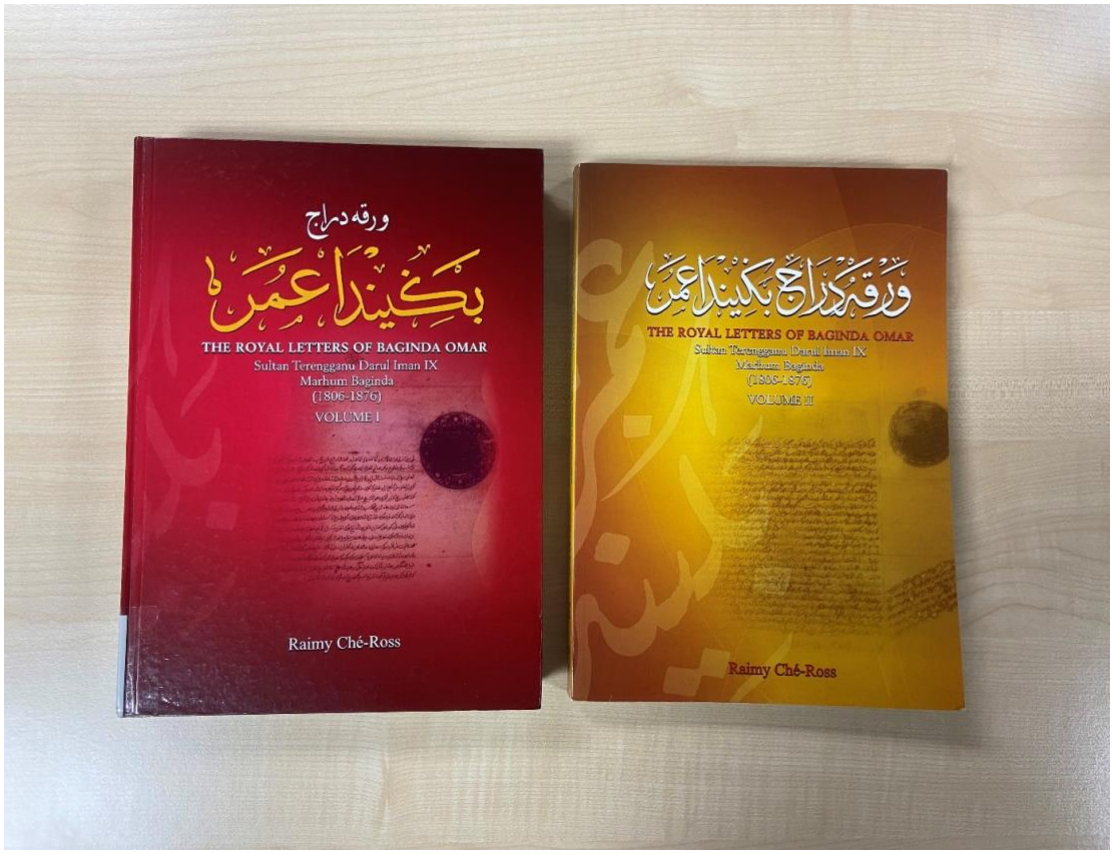
How do you see this documentary heritage being used for education and research?

1. Book publishing and writing
2. Transliteration from Malay – Jawi letters to Malay – Roman for research purpose
3. Translation from Malay to English for research purpose

النسخة




AKTA WARISAN KEBANGSAAN 2005
(AKTA 645)
DAFTAR WARISAN KEBANGSAAN
(Objek Warisan)


ورقه دراج
بكيندا عمر
THE ROYAL LETTERS OF BAGINDA OMAR
Sultan Terengganu Darul Iman IX
Marhum Baginda
(1806-1876)
VOLUME I
Raimy Ché-Ross
ورقه دراج بكيندا عمر
THE ROYAL LETTERS OF BAGINDA OMAR
Raimy Ché-Ross